

Wycombe to replay rugged professionals

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS 0 : ASHFORD 0

THE largest crowd of the season flocked to Loakes Park, High Wycombe, today for the F.A. Cup clash between Wycombe Wanderers and Ashford Town, which ended in a goalless draw. It was soon evident that Wycombe will have to pull out all the stops to beat the Southern League professionals at Ashford on Wednesday evening (7 p.m.).

Wycombe: Brown; Beck, Lewis; D. Worley, Fisher, Gale; L. Worley, Blair, James, Horseman, Hyde.

Ashford: Haydon; Edwards, Gregory; Peplow, Harris, Stevens; Payne, Bean, White, Clayton, Burden.

Referee: R. E. Hall (London).

The Ashford inside-left, Clayton, almost found the mark in the first few seconds when he broke through on his own and his shot was only inches wide.

With the speedy professionals monopolising the play, the home defence came under sustained pressure and, after Brown had saved well from Bean, Fisher saved the day by blocking a powerful drive from White.

Then, outside left Burden, a constant menace to the Wycombe defence, tested Brown again with a great shot from the wing.

CHANCE MISSED

But James missed the best chance for Wycombe when a pass from Horseman put him clear of the opposition. He stubbed his toe in making the shot and the ball swung wide.

As Wycombe gradually claimed more of the play, the Ashford goalkeeper Haydon was called on to make several excellent saves.

Blair had another good chance for Wycombe from a left-wing cross but ballooned the ball over. Worley and Hyde both produced sparkling wing runs, but over-eagerness in the middle often marred promising approach work.

At the other end, Brown dashed out to make another daring save from White.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Ashford 0.

Wycombe took the initiative at the start of the second half, but close marking kept them at bay. Brown tipped an accurate header from Bean just over the crossbar, and when Wycombe swept back at top pace, a brilliant shot by James deceived Haydon, but was carried by a gust of wind just wide of the mark.

END-TO-END

Play swung rapidly from end-to-end, with a succession of thrills in attack and counter-attack, and neither side able to sustain advantage for very long in face of dour defence.

Blair shone in a Wycombe forward line which produced some sparkling combined play, and young Tony Horseman, newcomer to the attack, was also

prominent with some neat passing movements with Hyde.

One Ashford attack looked a winner until Bean hurriedly ballooned the ball high over the bar. But Wycombe claimed rather more of the play and Ashford's goal had several narrow escapes.

RESULT

WYCOMBE W 0
ASHFORD TN 0

Wycombe Did All But Score

Wycombe Wanderers 0,
Ashford Town 0

Isthmian League champions Wycombe Wanderers had their fans in a frenzy for 90 minutes as they overran Ashford Town in their F.A. Cup tie. Ashford, derided by home supporters because they are from the Southern League, had to contend not only with jeers and the lively Wanderers, but also with the notorious High Wycombe slope.

They must, however, face Wednesday's scheduled replay with some misgivings. Wycombe have only one worry — getting centre-half hero Fisher fit in time.

In the opening minutes Ashford looked superior. Bean and White both went near to scoring as the amateurs showed Cup-tie nerves. Suddenly nerves were replaced by zealous endeavour and Ashford were in trouble.

Fisher, playing in spite of a leg injury, was ably supported by full-backs Beck and Lewis. They kept danger away while wing-halves D. Worley and Gale prompted a stream of attacks. Centre-forward James and inside-man Blair were too keen to make full use of their opportunities though.

Ashford's hard-pressed defence held out—but it took a goal-line clearance by dominating centre-half Harris to earn the replay.